

## **British Museum Year 4 CCTV Project - Design & Access Statement**

The British Museum is one of London's largest public buildings which can attract approximately 5 million visitors every year. The building is grade 1 listed and is of great architectural and social importance locally and nationally.

Security is an ever growing concern with the Museum which is currently running at a heightened threat status against crime and terrorism. The associated plans relate with works which are to be conducted within year 4 of a 5 year security upgrade framework. This framework is solidifying the security infrastructure currently deployed throughout the Museum by updating and expanding coverage of the CCTV to suit an operational requirement developed by the Museums security manager to improve protection of the public, staff, artefacts and buildings following advice from the Metropolitan Police.

Following a detailed survey of the British Museum's current security capability; by the Museum's security team in conjunction with the museum's technical security consultants, AECOM, a number of areas were found where coverage fails to meet the security standards required for such a site. Within this current years framework we are applying for listed consent for a number of CCTV cameras to be installed internally at the Museum and to also replace existing CCTV cameras with high resolution equivalents. This scheme has been designed so that the CCTV camera coverage of the Museum is improved, and all the CCTV cameras can be maintained regularly and safely to ensure its continued use and effectiveness.

At all stages of design the aesthetic impact of the CCTV on the Grade 1 listed building has been taken into consideration, and wherever possible the use of discreet type camera housings or hiding cameras in alcoves or behind pelmets in order not to distract from the aesthetics of the existing structure and furnishings has been implemented. Consideration to the installation of cabling of the cameras has also been given; the cabling system chosen will require only one cable to each camera using a CAT6e with an outside diameter of 4.5mm. This allows the cable to be very easily hidden, by either running the cable in back of house areas and penetrating to the back of the camera, chasing the cable into the plaster (and making good) in the gallery space, or discreetly hiding the cable above cornices or pelmets, and ensuring it is painted to match the adjacent finish.

The scheme does not have an impact to any person visiting the museum as all devices are to be installed above head height. Due consideration has however been given to ongoing access to the devices for cleaning, maintenance and repair.

Consideration of appearance of the devices at all locations has been one of the foremost deciding factors on the sighting of the devices and the impact on surrounding buildings along with the operational requirements for the cameras. Where possible the cameras have been placed in line with existing fittings such as lighting tracks, speakers and fire devices. Where the cameras are located in galleries with false ceilings, the use of recessed cameras has been used to reduce the visual impact.